

Rhode Island State Emergency Response Commission

January 10, 2011

2:00 P.M.

Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency

645 New London Avenue

Cranston, RI

Minutes of Meeting

Called to Order: 2:00 P.M. by Edward Johnson. A quorum was met.

Attendees:

Jim Ball, DEM

Mike Brazel, FEMA

Mike Carey, LEPC-5

Mike Dillon, LEPC-2

David DiMaio, LEPC-3

Gina Friedman, DEM

Jim Gaffey, USEPA

William Giannini, SERC Training Center

Bryan Greenwood, RIEMA

Richard James, RISFMD

Edward Johnson, RIEMA

Steve Preston, LEPC-1

Kevin Quinn, LEPC-4

Chief Fred Stanley, RIHFC

Jeff Stevens, DOH CEPR

Bob Sturdahl, RIEMA CIKR

(Note: Notice of this meeting was given to the Secretary of State's office and posted on their website. 48 hour notice was not given.)

Old Business:

Discussion of HMEP Grant.

Although transferring grant to the Fire Marshal's office had been discussed in the past, including whether it would help support the fire academy, it was ultimately decided to keep the grant at RIEMA because of unfunded audit fees and other associated costs and the question of who would fund those costs. The price of the audit was estimated to be under \$1,000 (or 0.5% of the total grant). Other grants cannot be used to pay for the audit, and the cost cannot be funded from the grant, itself. The grant was signed and submitted on December 28th. Notice was given to alert interested parties of this decision. Management of the grant, as well as funding of the audit fees has yet to be determined. Notice of the award has not been received from DOT. Future training dates associated with the grant will carry the caveat that funding is dependent upon receipt of grant funds. It was questioned whether the continuing resolution passed by Congress had an effect on receipt of actual funding.

Planning Committee Report (Mike Dillon)

Last meeting of the planning committee was in November. The next meeting of the committee will be held on January 19th at FEMA, 10

A.M. The committee is focusing on public education, notification, familiarizing the public with reverse 911 system and what to do in the event of a hazardous materials release. The emergency response plan that was developed by LEPC-1 is up on the RISERC website, and the instructions for this year for the EHS facilities to complete the emergency response plan tab on the Tier II report submitted.

The Plymouth hazmat conference, which this group co-sponsored last year, is scheduled for September 14-18. The dates and hotel have been secured. Chief Dillon suggested that the conference be funded through HMEP grant. Last year's costs were \$14,000 and it was suggested that this year's funding be increased to a level not to exceed \$18,000.

Motion to co-sponsor the hazmat conference again this year was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

Training Committee Report

Training committee met last month, but because of the question of the validity of the grant, approval of requests for training was suspended. Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 11th to pick up where the Committee left off in November.

Tri-State Report (Jim Ball)

A workshop for the tri-state was held last week at the Providence Civic Center. Chief Dillon from the Providence Fire Department was

present and deeply involved, especially as the workshop concerned his specialty, flammable liquids. It was stated that Chief Dillon's committee was instrumental in bringing together all three states – Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island - for this workshop. Federal counterparts from the EPA were present as well.

A scenario was presented in which rail cars carrying ethanol leak or catch fire after a bridge collapse and the result of such an event and the interaction of the tri-state area and federal agencies in coming together to come up with an incident action plan in the event of a real incident.

The contractor involved in this workshop did not perform adequately according to those in attendance. His contract ends on January 14th. A new contractor will have to be found for future events.

Discussion of ITAC and ICALL channels and how they will activate the marine strike team, flammable liquids and hazmat teams. Presently, the answering point console is at the State Police headquarters. The State Police have the skills to activate and locate the proper tower. Range is limited but each tower will cover its corresponding area. State Police also notify authorities in Massachusetts and Connecticut that ITAK has been activated, especially in a broad event. Procedure is in place. Drills will be scheduled.

LEPC District Reports

LEPC-1 will be hosting, in conjunction with EPA, Tier II workshop on January 12th at AMICA in their amphitheater from 8-12 pm. LEPC-1's next quarterly meeting is on January 12th at 1:30 P.M. at North Providence Public Library. LEPC-1 is in the process of updating its district emergency response plan. All industries have been asked to submit their updates along with Tier II so that any information that is new can be incorporated into the district plan at that time.

There are many training classes ongoing throughout the district. A tech class is taking place in Pawtucket, and numerous hazmat ops classes are ongoing throughout the northern part of the state.

Introduction of Bob Sturdahl

SERC coordinator, working with Al Sykes, is trying to bring in additional people, software, hardware and whatever else to support ongoing efforts, whether it is with plans that are to be submitted to this agency, emergency response plans, etc.

In next two weeks there will be a review of the new technology, including overlap maps. SERC should be able to have access to and try to enable in an unprecedented way the next generation of wet VOCs.

LEPC-2 (Mike Dillon)

Our last meeting was on December 13th at the Providence Public Safety Complex auditorium. Updated was the emergency response plan. LEPC-2 is currently waiting for a letter from the new mayor. There will be a meeting with the EPA on January 27th at the Providence Emergency Management Agency at 9 A.M. A new LEPC secretary, Scott Adkins from Roger Williams Hospital, has been put in place. A full-scale exercise of the emergency response plan has been scheduled at UNIBAR in June.

Next meeting is March 9th at 10 A.M., same place. Posted on SERC and LEPC-2 websites.

LEPC-3 (Dave DiMaio)

LEPC-3 met on December 9th at RIEMA. The next meeting is on March 10th, the location to be determined.

Currently working on a district plan that will hopefully be completed by July, 2011. Notices have been sent to all EHS sites in all communities to implement their response plan using a template that was chosen from the SERC website. The training of forty technicians has been completed as well as refresher training in the department. Warwick and West Warwick are currently performing their tech refreshers at two facilities requested slated for January 21st.

LEPC-4 (Kevin Quinn)

LEPC-4 covers all of Washington County. Last meeting on December

14th at the RI Nuclear Science Center. All participants were given a tour of the nuclear reactor there. Two small incidents in the district: small contaminated soils and some fuel spills. The next meeting is March 15th, location to be determined. On March 14th the other LEPC-4, at the Wyoming Fire Department, is going to do a “show and tell” and are inviting local police departments and local legislators to join in so that they know what we’re doing.

We are updating the emergency response plan including the typing to make sure the type resources are in there as well.

LEPC 5 (Mike Carey)

LEPC-5 covers East Providence, the East Bay and Jamestown. LEPC-5s last meeting was November 24h at East Providence City Hall. Volunteers were acquired for the emergency response plan subcommittees. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23rd @ 10 A.M., East Providence City Hall. There are several trainings going on in the East Bay, including a full hazmat ops and a refresher coming up in Newport. There is an issue with EHS facilities with respect to detection. EHS has submitted an engineer’s plan for the site and a system they plan to install. Mike Carey approved that plan which should be installed soon and will be full perimeter detection.

Edward Johnson: Thanked everyone who had participated with community planners to get their plans developed and approved and iterated that these plans have to be updated on a regular basis.

Suggested that anyone who is not aware of his town's plan to check with RIEMA.

Jim Gaffey: Mr. Gaffney stated that USEPA is a resource and there if needed. EPA will continue to look at the LEPCs but are very happy with current direction. EPA is doing tabletops this year, one in RI and one in CT, as was done last year in MA. This is a higher level exercise which deals with the inner actions in environmental monitoring and sampling, as well as data management for emergency responses that involve the environment. EPA is working with the CST, EPA, Coast Guard and hazmat teams to participate in this exercise on March 31st. Mr. Gaffney will be facilitating that exercise and hopes the hazmat teams can participate at Camp Fogarty. Mr. Gaffney briefly discussed the capabilities of the Cameo system.

There is an EPA meeting every Monday morning to evaluate the goals and objectives for 2011. There is a review the 2010 goals and how those tracked, and the accomplishments and the opportunity of participants to develop the current year's goals. Included was the issue of resource typing and credentialing. The grant dollars should be available around March to start inputting people. Typing is also important to understand what the capability is of a particular resource.

Discussed briefly was the relocation of the RAD office from the basement of the State House to a facility in Scituate. Licensing and

infrastructure issues have to be resolved before the change can be made. It was suggested that a SERC meeting could be held at the new Scituate facility once it is operational.

The engineer unit company unit of North Com and its extraction emergency response has equipment coming in now which will be at Camp Fogarty with the engineers and should be validated by the First Army and in place in October. It's been a well-kept secret and there's more to follow on that.

Bryan Greenwood, RIEMA

Bryan has been able to secure equipment for recalibration and will try to get the whole calibration process up to speed. He has some resources coming out of Massachusetts.

Richard James, RISFMD

Clarified that there is no federal budget. Congress passed a Continuing Resolution which essentially allows the government to continue to operate on level funding, using 2010 numbers. No one is allowed to apply for or execute any new grants. A budget may be passed in March which will clarify what the new numbers are.

2010 Calendar: SERC will be meeting on a regular basis. Wednesday is the training exercise. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The normal cadence for meetings will be followed in 2011, with a reservation of the right to call special meetings if necessary.

New Business

Legislation is being drafted for the hazmat team exemption.

Chemical have been up in the Port of Providence since September.

There was an activation (a false alarm) on December 18th.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting of the RISERC Commission will be held on February 7th at 2:00 P.M.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.